Pasarlapudi. The findings and recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Government.

(b) and (c). As this is an internal enquiry set up by the Government, it is not proposed to make the report public.

Cogentrix Power Project

*396. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide counter-guarantee for the Cogentrix Power Project of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have laid down any guidelines for State Electricity Boards for seeking guarantee from the Union Government;

(d) if so, whether the Karnataka State Electricity Board has failed to provide this requirement; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Union Government are likely to give its final decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES) (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India (GOI) counter guarantee is proposed to be extended to the Karnataka State guarantee to the Karnataka Electricity Board's payment obligations to the Mangalore Power Company.

(c) GOI has laid down certain general parameters for extending counter guarantee to the State guarantee to the State Electricity Board's payment obligations to the Generating Companies.

(d) The Karnataka Electricity Board does not satisfy eligibility criteria/performance parameters such as achieving a minimum 3% Rate of Return (ROR) for the year 1995-96, outstanding receivables and minimum agricultural tariff.

(e) GOI has agreed to grant exemption from the eligibility criteria.

Power Tariff for Agriculture Sector

*397. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether variation in the rates of power supply to agricultural sector in different States is very vast;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to rationalise the rate for agricultural sector for the whole country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES) (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The rates of power supply in agricultural sector vary from State to State.

(b) A statement showing average tariff in agricultural sector in different States is enclosed.

(c) The electricity tariff to the retail consumers, including the tariff for the agricultural sector, are being fixed as per the respective State Government policies.

(d) Chief Ministers' Conference was held on 16 October, 1996 and 3rd December, 1996 to deliberate upon the important issues in the power sector and draw up an Action Plan for bringing about improvement in the sector which *inter-alia* includes sector reforms, performance of utilities, tariff rationalisation including agricultural tariff etc. The Action Plan would need to be finalised based on the various suggestions of the Chief Ministers Conference.

STATEMENT

Statement showing Agricultural Tariff (As on 30.11.96) and Agricultural Realisation by SEBs from Agricultural Sector during 1994-95

S.No.	Name of the Board	Date of Revision	Applicability (Load)	Tariff		Elect. Duty/Tax	Average Realisation during 94-95 (P/Kwh)
				Flat Rate Rs/HP/	Metered Supply Annum P/ Kwh		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.8.96	Upto 75 HP	-			
			Upto 3 HP	250			
			Above 3HP - 5HP	350			5.73
			Above 5HP - 10HP	450	-		
			Above 10HP	-	50		